

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 6. This sheet, which includes Figure 6, replaces the original sheet including Figure 6.

In the original Figure 6, label 190 referred to "add main script file to list of files to process", "unprocessed file?", "unprocessed resolve statement?", and "begin execution at main template". Label 190 was incorrectly used to refer to the later of these three elements. Accordingly, Figure 6 has been amended to have label 192 referred to "unprocessed file?". Support for this change is found in the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 30. Additionally, Figure 6 has been amended to have label 194 refer to "unprocessed resolve statement?". Support for this change is also found in the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 30. Further, Figure 6 has been amended to have label 202 refer to "begin execution at main template". Support for this change is found in the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 31.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 20, 2005 considered claims 1-10, 12-15, 27, 28 and 30-35. Claims 1-15 and 27-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-15 and 27-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Courts et al. (U.S. 6,076,108.) Claims 1-15 and 27-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gebauer (U.S. 6,662,343).¹

All of the pending claims 1-10, 12-15, 27, 28 and 30-35 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, it was unclear to the examiner how the decision engine knows to select content based on a client attribute if the request does not supply the client attribute and also if the request does not specify how the selection is to be made. It was also unclear to the examiner what the request actually includes and also how the decision engine is using it. It was also unclear to the examiner how the decision engine would know that the request for content is based a particular client without receiving any indication of the client from the server application. Hopefully, the remarks and the clarifying amendments made by this paper will be found to adequately address and overcome these issues. Some of the claims were also objected to for minor informalities which have been fixed by claim amendment, by deleting objected to language and by providing adequate antecedent basis for claim terminology.

By this paper, claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, and 35 have been amended and claims 36-38 added.² Accordingly, claims, 1-10, 12-15, 27, 28 and 30-38 are pending, of which claims 1, 9, and 27 are the only independent claims at issue.

The present invention is generally directed to embodiments in which a decision engine is used to help create a document that is customized according to a configuration associated with a client and/or user and in a way that script developers and site administrators do not need to

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Support for the amendments to the claims are found throughout the specification and previously presented claims, including, but not limited to the cancelled claims, pages 6, 14, 15, 20, 22, 23, 25, and Figure 3. Further, although the disclosure of the present application supports the claim amendments, additional support for the claim amendments is also found in portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,704,776 (e.g., Col. 7, l. 13 – Col. 13, l. 61), which is incorporated by reference into the present application.

concern themselves with the decision processes for customizing the document, when they write the scripts. According to the invention, changes to decision criteria are abstracted, such that they can be made at the decision engine, and without altering the structure of the scripts that are ultimately used to create the document. (Specification page 6, 15)

Claim 1, for example, recites a method that includes a server application receiving a request for a document, wherein the server application is configured to generate the document from a script and the request includes at least a client identifier. The server application then generates and sends a corresponding request to a decision engine, which is separate from the server application, to select content for the document. The corresponding request includes at least an indication of the client identifier and specifies that the decision engine is to identify appropriate customized content for the client based on client configuration. Accordingly, as claimed, the request is sent without the server application specifying any client attributes that alter content selection.

The decision engine, upon receiving the request, utilizes the at least an indication of the client identifier to access at least one other attribute of the client from an attribute provider. The at least one other attribute represents an aspect of the client's configuration. The attribute provider is separate from the decision engine and the server application such that attributes can be added at the attribute provider without having to modify computer-executable instructions of the decision engine or the server application. The decision engine applies available decision criteria to the accessed at least one other attribute to select customized content, from a plurality of available content, that the decision engine determines to be appropriate for the client. The decision engine sends an identification of the selected customized content to the server application.

The server application receives from the decision engine the identification of the customized content that has been selected by the decision engine. The server application creates the document and incorporates into the document the customized content that has been selected by the decision engine. The customized content is appropriate for presentation at the client based on the configuration of the client represented in the at least one other client attribute accessed from the attribute provider. The document is transmitted to the client.

Claim 9 is directed to a similar method, but wherein the content selected by the decision engine is one portion of a script that is concatenated with another portion of a script by the server application. Claim 27 is directed to a corresponding computer program product for implementing the method of claim 9.

It will be appreciated, that by the forgoing, a customized document can be created with the use of a script, without the server application or script having the burden of making the decisions regarding customization or even have to include information that is used to make these decisions. (Specification, page 18, ll. 2-5). Accordingly, in this manner, customization is abstracted, such that when changes in customization criteria are made, they can be made at the decision engine, without having to manually change all of the multiple portions of a source code in the server applications or in the scripts that are used to create the document.

With specific regard to the Examiners 112 rejections regarding indefiniteness, it should now be apparent from the claim language how to access a client attribute when a request does not include the attribute. It should also be apparent how the decisions engine would know that the request for content is based on a particular client. In particular, as claimed, the decision engine uses at least an indication of a client identifier to access at least one client attribute from an attribute provider. The Examiner has previously suggested that a name can be an attribute. In this regard, Applicants point out that even if a client name or identifier is an attribute, the claims define that the decision engine uses the indication of the identifier to select at least one other client attribute, not included in the request, from an attribute provider. The claims also define that the at least one other client attribute is used to identify content. Accordingly, it is possible for the request to include a client name or identifier, but not include the attribute that is used to select the content. As disclosed in the specification, other attributes can include, but are not limited to, such things as a user language, country, age, level of subscription, etc.

In view of the foregoing, it should be appreciated that the cited art does not disclose or suggest a method or system in which a decision engine selects customized content, from a plurality of content, that is appropriate for a client based on a client attribute representing an aspect of the client's configuration, wherein the attribute of the client is not included in the request for customized content received from a separate server application.

Courts, for example, is directed to a system and method for maintaining a state of a user session (title) in which a session manager obtains session data from a global session server

storing a master copy and then sends the session information to a render engine that builds a web page using the session information. (Col. 8, ll. 41-45). Courts essentially discloses a system for implementing a stateful session with a Web system using a connectionless and stateless protocol, such as, for example, HTTP. (Background and Col. 6, l. 62 – Col. 7, l. 12). A session ID is used to track requests as part of a particular session such that requests can be meaningfully processed relative to one another. (Cols. 8 and 9).

Although Courts discloses a session manager obtains a copy of data and sends it to a render engine to build a page. Courts does not, disclose or suggest that a decision engine is used in a method or system to select customized content that is appropriate for a client, from a plurality of content, based on a client attribute representing an aspect of the client's configuration that is not included in a request for content received from a separate server application. Courts does disclose an attribute cache. However, this attribute cache merely provides "fast access to (security related) group access numbers and (document cache related) cache control enumeration." (Col. 6, ll. 53-55). Courts attribute cache should not, therefore, be considered analogous to the attribute providers of the present invention that provide attributes that are used to customize the selection of content from a plurality of content based on a client's configuration as claimed.

Further, with specific reference to the rejection of claim 3 (paragraph 10 of the Office Action), the Office Action asserts that Courts teaches concatenating a script to an additional script. (Courts, Col. 8, lines 45-50). However, the cited portion of Courts references an already built Web page that has been provided to a user. The "unlock" mechanism allows changes to the session state to be written to the master copy of session data. That is, after a Web page is delivered to a user, the session state for the user is updated. However, the cited portion of Court does not teach "an act of concatenating the first script and the second script by inserting the second script into the first script to replace the reference to the second script, prior to executing the first script to incorporate the appropriate content into the document", as recited in claim 3. Applicant notes that claim 3 also inherits the limitations of claim 2. In this regard, the "unlock" mechanism of Court could not put content in the Web page, since the "unlock" mechanism is called only after the Web page is provided to the user.

The other cited art, Gebaurer, also fails to compensate for the shortcomings of Courts. In particular, Gebaurer fails to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination with Courts, a method

or system in which a decision engine is used in a method or system to select customized content that is appropriate for a client, from a plurality of content, based on a client attribute representing an aspect of the client's configuration that is not included in a request for content received from a separate server application, as claimed. Instead, Gebaurer is directed to a system that functionally relates a plurality of transfers over the Internet into an associated sequence of service requests, to replicate and generate corresponding database management system commands. (Summary, particularly Col. 3, ln. 55 thru Col. 4, ln. 44). Gebaurer does disclose the potential to add a customized footer to an HTML display page. (Col. 13, ll. 39-65). However, whether or not a footer is displayed is based solely on a stored condition, for example, an ON/OFF condition, used for all requests. (Col. 13, ll. 48-57).

Claim 1 was objected to for including a typographical error. The typographical error has been corrected.

In view of the foregoing, the rejections of record are now moot, such that it is not necessary to address each of the other assertions of record in the last response. Nevertheless, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of said assertions in the future. Furthermore, although the foregoing remarks are primarily directed to the independent claims, it will be appreciated that the dependent claims should also be found allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as provided above.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



RICK D. NYDEGGER
Registration No. 28,651
MICHAEL B. DODD
Registration No. 46,437
Attorneys for Applicant
Customer No. 47973



Title: SERVER-SIDE SCRIPTING THAT ENABLES CREATION
OF CUSTOMIZED DOCUMENTS FOR CLIENTS

Inventor: Michael A. Cleron, et al.

Docket No.: 14531.70

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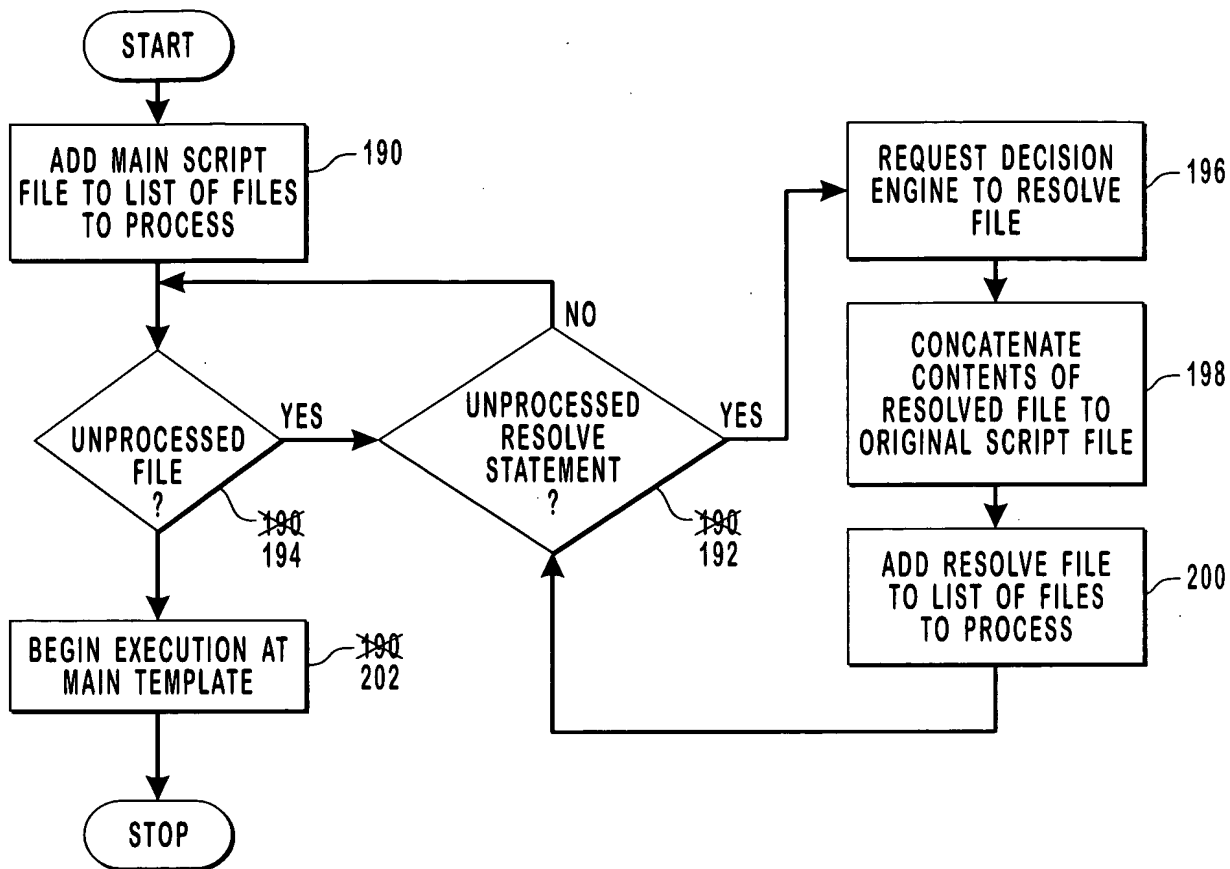


FIG. 6